

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

an input power port;

a power rail;

a battery unit; and

a system charger voltage regulator (VR) to couple the input power port to the battery unit, and said battery unit to couple with the system charger VR and the power rail,

wherein said system charger VR is to provide a regulated voltage signal when a power source is coupled to the input power port, said regulated voltage signal to simultaneously power both the power rail and the battery unit,

wherein said battery unit is to provide a battery voltage signal to power the power rail when no power source is coupled to the input power port, and

wherein the regulated voltage signal and the battery voltage signal have a common upper bound and a common lower bound.

2. - 4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of ~~claim 2~~ claim 1 wherein the power source comprises a voltage from one of an AC/DC converter, an external battery, a fuel cell, a solar panel, and ~~power over~~ power over a local area network.

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6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the battery unit comprises:
a battery pack port to couple to the system charger VR and to receive a battery pack; and
a power source selector to selectively couple either the system charger VR to the power rail or the battery pack port to the power rail.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the system charger VR is to power the battery pack port to recharge a discharged battery coupled to the battery pack port.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the battery unit comprises:
a plurality of battery pack ports, each of the plurality of battery pack ports to couple to the system charger VR and to receive a battery pack; and
a power source selector to selectively couple any one of the system charger VR and the plurality of battery pack ports to the power rail.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the battery unit further comprises:
a battery charging selector to couple between the system charger VR and each of the plurality of battery pack ports, said battery charging selector to selectively couple any one of the plurality of battery pack ports to the system charger VR.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the power rail extends beyond the battery unit to couple the system charger VR to the ~~battery unit~~ battery unit.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the battery unit comprises:
a battery pack port to receive a battery pack.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the battery unit further comprises:

a switch to selectively couple the battery pack port to the power rail.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein, if the battery pack is coupled to the battery pack port, said switch is to couple the battery pack port to the power rail for either powering the power rail or charging the battery pack.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

an input power port;

a power rail;

a battery unit, wherein the battery unit includes a battery pack port to receive a battery pack; and

_____ a system charger voltage regulator (VR) to couple the input power port to the battery unit, and said battery unit to couple with the system charger VR and the power rail,

_____ wherein the power rail extends beyond the battery unit to couple the system charger VR to the battery unit, and ~~The apparatus of claim 11~~

_____ wherein the battery pack comprises:

a switch control port to receive a switch control signal from the battery pack port;

a battery stack; and

a switch to selectively couple the battery stack to the battery pack port based at least in part on the switch control signal.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the battery unit comprises:

a plurality of battery pack ports, each to receive a battery pack.

16. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

generating a regulated voltage signal when a power source is available;

providing the regulated voltage signal to simultaneously power both a power rail and a battery unit; and

providing a battery voltage signal to power the power rail when no power source is available.

wherein the regulated voltage signal and the battery voltage signal have a common upper bound and a common lower bound.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the power source comprises a voltage from one of an AC/DC converter, an external battery, a fuel cell, a solar panel, and power over a local area network.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein providing the regulated voltage signal to power the battery unit comprises:

recharging a discharged battery in the battery unit.

20. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a mobile computer; and

a power apparatus for the mobile computer, said power apparatus

comprising

an input power port;

a power rail;

a battery unit; and

a system charger voltage regulator (VR) to couple the input power port to the battery unit, and said battery unit to couple with the system charger VR and the power rail,

wherein said system charger VR is to provide a regulated voltage signal when a power source is coupled to the input power port, said regulated voltage signal to simultaneously power both the power rail and the battery unit,

wherein said battery unit is to provide a battery voltage signal to power the power rail when no power source is coupled to the input power port, and

wherein the regulated voltage signal and the battery voltage signal have a common upper bound and a common lower bound.

21. - 23. (Cancelled)

24. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the battery unit comprises:

a battery pack port to couple to the system charger VR and to receive a battery pack; and

a power source selector to selectively couple either the system charger VR to the power rail or the battery pack port to the power rail.

25. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the battery unit comprises:

a plurality of battery pack ports, each of the plurality of battery pack ports to couple to the system charger VR and to receive a battery pack; and

a power source selector to selectively couple any one of the system charger VR and the plurality of battery pack ports to the power rail.

26. (Original) The system of claim 25 wherein the battery unit further comprises:

a battery charging selector to couple between the system charger VR and each of the plurality of battery pack ports, said battery charging selector to selectively couple any one of the plurality of battery pack ports to the system charger VR.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20 wherein the power rail extends beyond the battery unit to couple the system charger VR to the ~~battery unit~~ battery unit.

28. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein the battery unit comprises:

a battery pack port to receive a battery pack.

29. (Original) The system of claim 28 wherein the battery pack port comprises:

a switch to selectively couple the battery pack port to the power rail wherein, if the battery pack is coupled to the battery pack port, said switch is to couple the battery pack port to the power rail for either powering the power rail or charging the battery pack.

30. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

_____ a mobile computer; and

_____ a power apparatus for the mobile computer, said power apparatus comprising

_____ an input power port;

_____ a power rail;

_____ a battery unit, wherein the battery unit includes a battery pack port to receive a battery pack; and

_____ a system charger voltage regulator (VR) to couple the input power port to the battery unit, and said battery unit to couple with the system charger VR and the power rail,

_____ wherein the power rail extends beyond the battery unit to couple the system charger VR to the battery unit, and ~~The system of claim 28~~

_____ wherein the battery pack comprises:

_____ a switch control port to receive a switch control signal from the battery pack port;

_____ a battery stack; and

_____ a switch to selectively couple the battery stack to the battery pack port based at least in part on the switch control signal.

31. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein the battery unit comprises:

a plurality of battery pack ports, each to receive a battery pack.